

# Quercus cerris

## Turkey Oak, Bitter Oak, Iron Oak, Austrian Oak



*Quercus cerris* (Turkey Oak) is a large, fast-growing tree native to central and south-eastern Europe. The Turkey oak is a prominent species in deciduous woodlands, mostly dominating the canopy, where it grows with *Quercus frainetto*, *Fraxinus ornus* and *Euonymus europaeus*, among others. *Quercus cerris* was first described by Swedish botanist Carl Linneus in 1753. When young, the tree develops a conical crown, while mature, free-standing specimens may develop a more rounded crown. *Quercus cerris* can grow up to 40 metres tall and develop a substantial trunk with dense branching.

The dark green leaves of *Quercus cerris* are lanceolate with a deeply lobed margin and a grey pubescent underside. In autumn, the foliage turns yellow, later rust-brown and may remain on the tree until spring, especially on young trees. The buds are covered with long scales, making it fairly easy to recognise. The Turkey oak flowers with inconspicuous, green catkins in April or May with the first flush of young leaves. The acorns are variable in size and shape, usually elliptical, the cup is covered with long scales and they do not ripen until the second year. The bark of the Turkey oak is dark greyish in colour, rough and later slightly flaking.

This heat-loving oak is likely to become more common in northern Europe with a warming climate. A fast-growing tree, it also develops a deep taproot, which makes it excellent for drier conditions; much better than *Quercus robur* and *Quercus petraea* and, unlike these oaks, it is unsusceptible to mildew. *Quercus cerris* can withstand road salt and air pollution and is suitable for planting on acidic and alkaline soils; it grows even on thin chalk soils. Because of its fast growth on all types of soil, the Turkey oak is widely used against erosion. It is a perfect tree for larger parks and green spaces where plenty of space is available to develop its true monumental character

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, shade trees, characteristic trees, woodland planting stock

### USE

**Location:** avenue, square, park, central reservation, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside, ecological zone, windbreak, coastal area | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** Eco planting, Landscape planting, Solid planting

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** rounded, pyramidal | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 20 - 40 m | **Width:** 10 - 20 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6A - 9A

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** tolerant to wind, tolerant to coastal wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level:** low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** birds, small mammals | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to salt spray, tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** catkins, discrete | **Flower colour:** green | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** dark green, underside grey | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovoid, polished, rough, underside hairy, dissected, lobate | **Autumn colour:** yellow, yellow-brown | **Fruits:** striking, acorn | **Fruit colour:** brown, green | **Bark colour:** grey, grey-black | **Bark:** peeling, furrowed | **Twig colour:** olive green | **Twigs:** hairy, long shoots | **Root system:** deep, extensive